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### CIA -History

Top U.S. intelligence and military officials assured Congress in secret testimony 35 years ago that the CIA wouldn't spy on Americans and thus safeguards against such action were unnecessary.

"I would not try to be too specific," said Allen Dulles, a top U.S. intelligence operative in World War II and later director of the CIA. "It is a delicate field, and you cannot be too specific" about restrictions on CIA activities.

The testimony of Dulles and other officials, given June 27, 1947, and released Tuesday by the House Intelligence Committee, reflects many of the same concerns that later became the focus of congressional investigations in the mid-1970s into CIA spying against Americans.

At the secret hearing, Dulles also testified that 10 percent of German military intelligence was helping the United States during World War II.

The aid provided by the Abwehr, the Nazis' military intelligence arm, included "some of the first information we had about the German development of the guided missiles," such as the V-1 "buzz bomb," a subsonic jet, and later the V-2 rocket, Dulles said.

The House Committee on Expenditures held the closed hearing to take testimony on the proposed National Security Act, the 1947 law that created the Central Intelligence Agency.

At the hearing, several committee members expressed concern that the CIA might grow into an American "Gestapo." Although the bill barred the agency from a police or internal security role, specific guidelines on the CIA's functions were left to a presidential executive order.

"That is one of the weaknesses in this bill that we have before us," said Rep. Clarence J. Brown, R-Ohio, father of current Rep. Clarence J. Brown. "Nobody knows what those functions are. ..."

"The Congress, as the representatives of the people, has a duty and a responsibility to guarantee the protection of those people and their rights and privileges under the Constitution."

But Gen. Hoyt Sanford Vandenberg, then-chief of the Air Force, said that since the CIA's clear role was foreign intelligence, there was nothing in the bill "that can possibly affect any of the privileges of the people of the United States."

In 1976, a Senate investigation found that in the late 1960s, the CIA directed intelligence operations against anti-Vietnam War protesters and other dissident groups in the United States.

The investigation also discovered that the CIA had for years been opening U.S. mail.